(e) the evaluation procedure in respect of the selection of the engines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (e) Indian Airlines has submitted a Project Report for acquisition of 43 aircrafts coprising Airbus A-319, Airbus, A-320 and Airbus A-321. The proposed aircraft are to be fitted with CFM-56 engines. The selection of the aircraft/engines are based on techno-economic evaluation of offers received from aircraft and engine manufacturers.

Safety of Cargo at IGI Airport

882. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven persons including four employees of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) approved Cargo handling agencies were arrested by the Crime Branch for allegedly stealing goods from consignments at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the job of Cargo handling is given to Private agencies and stealing of goods has been done in collusion with the regular staff of AAI; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken to ensure the safety of Cargo at the airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Five employees of a private agency providing cargo handling services at the Cargo Terminal of IGI Airport and two businessmen were arrested by Crime Branch of Delhi Police. Subsequently five more persons were arrested.

(c) No involvement of regular staff of Airports Authority of India (AAI) has come to the notice as yet.

(d) The AAI has lodged an FIR with Crime Branch Delhi Police who have started investigation. The concerned airline has been requested to send world tracer action. Security at Cargo Terminal has been beefed up with increased supervisory checks. All cargo officers have been asked

to be extra vigilant. Night checks of cargo complex and surrounding areas have also been ordered.

Upgradation of Pune Airport

883. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the upgradation of the Airport at Pune;

(b) whether Government have made any provision for this purpose, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Airport at Pune belong to Indian Air Force (Ministry of Defence), where Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains a Civil Enclave. Runway is suitable for operation of A-320 and one ATR type of aircrafts. Terminal building is suitable to accommodate 150 arriving and 150 departing passengers at a time.

(b) AAI has plan to expand the Civil apron, for which AAI has requested Indian Air Force to hand over the required land.

(c) Does not arise.

Delay in modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai Airports

884. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's proposal to develop Delhi and Mumbai airports to meet international standards had made no progress in the past three months after the presentation of budget; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The modalities for restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai Airports are under consideration.